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But, after wondrous labor spent,
 I've got three grains of rich content
 It is my wish, it is my glory,
 To furnish your Knicknackatory;
 I only beg that, when you shew 'em,
 You'll fairly tell to whom you owe 'em,
 Which will your future patients teach
 To do as has done, yours, I. H.

JUNE MEETING.

A stated meeting was held on Thursday, the 12th instant, at 11, A.M.; Vice-President ADAMS, in the absence of the President, in the chair.

The Recording Secretary read his record of the last meeting.

The Librarian read his monthly list of donors to the Library.

The Corresponding Secretary announced the acceptance of the Hon. Benjamin R. Curtis, who had been elected a Resident Member at the May meeting.

The Vice-President, the Hon. C. F. ADAMS, noticed the decease of our associate member, the Hon William Minot, since the last meeting of the Society, as follows :—

It becomes my duty to note the decease, since the last meeting, of one of our most venerable and respected members, Mr. William Minot. Though never taking any prominent part in the public action of life, no person passed his days in the performance of duties more useful to society or honorable to himself. Confidence in the fulfilment of obligations of pecuniary trusts is only merited by a life of the purest integrity. The many who reposed it in him during the long course of his active career had cause to congratulate themselves, when reflecting how much shifting sand was visible always around them, that they had built their house on a rock.

Mr. WATERSTON, from the Standing Committee, offered the following resolution :—

Resolved, That this Society has heard with deep emotion of the death of their venerable associate, the Hon. William Minot, who, after a long, diligent, and useful life, has, in the full maturity of age, tranquilly passed away, leaving us one less representative among the living binding us to the generations that have gone.

Resolved, That the President of the Society, the Hon. Robert

C. Winthrop, be requested to prepare a Memoir of Mr. Minot for the Society's Proceedings.

The Recording Secretary had received a letter from the President of the Society, dated Stockbridge, 9th June, in which he said: "I am really sorry to be absent from our meeting, more especially as I may thus be prevented from paying a tribute to the memory of my venerable and valued friend, the Hon. William Minot, who has been associated with us for thirty years, and for whom I had a warm personal regard."

The resolutions were unanimously adopted.

The Treasurer read a letter from Mr. Hillard, one of the executors of the late Mr. Savage, announcing officially the bequest of \$5,000 to the Society, and that the executors were ready to pay the same. The letter was accompanied by that portion of the will in which this bequest and others to the Society were made, viz.:—

Second. To the Massachusetts Historical Society I give the sum of five thousand dollars, of the income whereof no use shall be made except for the increase of said Society's library, at the discretion of said Society's Standing Committee, who shall annually make report of their doings herein; and, further, I give said Society my collection of coins, medals, and currency, whether of gold, silver, bronze, brass, copper, mixed metals, paper, or other materials, with the little cabinet for them designed, now wholly without arrangement, a very small portion only of said collection having been purchased by me more than half a century ago, as I had little leisure for such exacting study; and the aggregate value of this collection may not, I hope, be slighted, inasmuch as much the best parts of these irrefragable muniments of history were gifts from very competent appraisers, Joseph G. Cogswell and George Ticknor, by them so long since gathered in their travels or residence in Egypt, Spain, Germany, Italy, France, Great Britain, or elsewhere, and these friends probably foresaw this ultimate destination of their munificence; and, further, I give said Society the right of selecting from my library a hundred volumes, after the selection for the University is made, but with right exclusively in the four volumes of my Genealogical Dictionary of New England, and the two volumes of the later edition of Winthrop's History of New England; further, I make urgent request of said Society to allow neither of these six volumes to be withdrawn from their rooms except in special regard to the object of reprinting either of them in revised editions under the Society's care, because in the margins of the pages of both, and particularly of the Dictionary, abundant additions and not a few corrections are inserted.

The Librarian said that the one hundred volumes bequeathed to the Society by Mr. Savage had been selected by Mr. Deane

and himself, and that the other volumes, specifically given, had also been received. The collection of coins bequeathed to the Society had already been deposited in the cabinet three years since. (See Proceedings for April, 1870, p. 252.)

On motion of the Treasurer the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

Resolved, That this Society gratefully accepts the legacies, pecuniary and specific, bequeathed to them by their late venerable and honored associate, James Savage, recognizing in them additional manifestations of the deep interest felt by him in its work, and shown by such long and valuable services as member and President.

Mr. DEANE stated that the Society had received from Mrs. Rogers, the daughter of Mr. Savage, a large number of manuscripts and printed pamphlets belonging to her late father, to be placed in the Society's archives if they should be found, on examination, to be worthy of preservation. In a letter to him she says: "I spent all my leisure of last winter in looking over the letters of my father, and from them I put aside every thing of an historical and genealogical nature, which are in the box, not knowing whether there were many of any importance, yet fearing to destroy what *might* be of value. You will therefore, if you please, dispose of them as you think best."

On motion of Mr. DEANE, it was unanimously

Voted, That the thanks of the Society be presented to Mrs. Rogers for the valuable donation of papers, both manuscript and printed, from the collection of her late father, Mr. Savage.

Voted, That these Savage papers be referred to the Committee on the Publication of the Proceedings, to be examined and arranged under their direction.

Members of the "first section" being called upon, Mr. ELLIS AMES read the following extracts, being the eleventh and twelfth clauses, from the will of Colonel Ephraim Leonard, who lived in that part of the town of Norton, in the county of Bristol, Mass., which was subsequently incorporated as the town of Mansfield.* The will was dated July 23, 1783.

"Item. I give and bequeath to my only son, Daniel Leonard, Esq. (who I suppose is now in Europe), to him, his heirs and assigns for ever, all my estate of every kind, name, or nature whatsoever, except—

* Colonel Leonard lived in the second parish of Norton, which was incorporated as such June 23, 1731, and was reincorporated April 26, 1770, into the District of Mansfield, which district became a town by force of the general law enacted in August, 1775, at the first session of our General Court for the political year 1775-76, chapter 3, section 3, enacting that every district shall henceforth be a town to all intents and purposes whatsoever.

ing what I do otherwise dispose of in this my will, upon condition that when a final settlement of the controversy subsisting between Great Britain and the United States of North America shall take place, and by the authority of the state of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts said Daniel shall be allowed to return and take possession of and quietly enjoy the estate I have bequeathed him, and not otherwise ; that is to say, upon condition my aforesaid son Daniel shall be allowed to return to and reside in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and be entitled to all the privileges and immunities of a citizen.

“Item. Provided my son Daniel aforesaid shall not be allowed to return as aforesaid, but shall be by lawful authority disqualified to enjoy my estate, then in that case I give and bequeath all my estate, both real and personal, to my grandchildren, the children of my son Daniel, to them and to their heirs and assigns for ever, after my just debts, legacies, and funeral charges are paid, upon condition that my said grandchildren return and are in a capacity to receive and improve the same, and not otherwise. And it is my will and pleasure that those of my said grandchildren which shall return and be admitted to improve the same as above said, those and only those of them shall be benefited by my estate. And it is my will and pleasure that upon supposition my son Daniel is not allowed to return and enjoy my estate, and my grandchildren aforesaid or any of them shall return and shall be in a legal capacity to improve and enjoy my estate, that my executor, and my executor is hereby ordered and empowered to make a division of said estate among them, according to his judgment and discretion, and order what part of said estate each of them shall have. And as the condition and circumstances of my grandchildren may be different, I do not order an equal division of said estate to be made among them either as to quantity or value, but shall be as my executor shall order without said estate being appraised or valued, and that such division as my executor shall so order and make shall be good and valid to all intents and purposes.

“Furthermore, that upon supposition one or more of my aforesaid grandchildren return, and are in a legal capacity to enjoy my estate, and a division shall be made by my executor, in this case it is my will and pleasure that only such as shall return of my aforesaid grandchildren within the term of twelve years after such division or divisions shall be benefited by my estate, and all such of my aforesaid grandchildren as neglect to return within the aforesaid term shall be considered as having forfeited their share or interest in my estate.”

Mr. Ames continued : —

The dwelling-house of Colonel Ephraim Leonard, where Daniel Leonard was born, is about two and a half miles east of the Mansfield Depot of the Boston and Providence Railroad. It is in a fair state of repair, and painted red. On entering it, the antiquity of the house and the spaciousness of the two-story entry and the large size of the rooms indicate that it was the residence of a gentleman of the provin-

cial period. Colonel Leonard had in Mansfield about five hundred acres of land, and on his homestead he had very considerable iron works, wherein the iron manufactures of the times were carried on. About one quarter of a mile south-easterly of his house, in what is now a wood-lot, he and his wives (the first the mother of Daniel Leonard, who died in 1741, shortly after the birth of her son Daniel) were buried, the gravestones lying flat upon the ground.

Daniel Leonard graduated at Harvard College in 1760, and, as the College Catalogue shows, became Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Island of Bermuda. His court had admiralty and prize jurisdiction, and I have seen and conversed with sailors who had been present in his court, between the years 1790 and 1812, when vessels from Massachusetts had been brought in before him on complaint for carrying contraband goods during the wars between England and France.

Daniel Leonard studied law after graduating in 1760, and opened his office as a lawyer and commenced practice in Taunton about the same time that the Hon. Robert Treat Paine, the signer of the Declaration of Independence (Harv. Coll. 1749) settled there.

He was a representative from Taunton during the political years 1769-70, 1770-71, and 1771-72. He was not a member for the political year 1772-73. He was again a member, with Robert Treat Paine for his colleague, for the political year 1773-74; and was again elected, with Robert Treat Paine as his colleague, at the annual spring election of 1774, for the political year 1774-75, and took his seat, but that House of Representatives became extinct upon Governor Gage's abrupt dissolution of the General Court at Salem, on the 17th day of June, 1774, instantly after the election of our five members to the first Continental Congress.

He was appointed by the Crown, under the Act of Parliament, 14 George III., ch. 45 (1774), entitled "*An Act for the better regulating the Government of the Province of the Massachusetts Bay in New England*," one of the members of the council board of the Province, as attempted to be reconstructed by that Act, who were commonly called "Mandamus Councillors," but who never met and qualified.

After alluding to the Act of the General Court of September session, 1778, to prevent the return to this State of 308 persons therein named (including Daniel Leonard), and others, who had left this State and joined the enemies thereof, the substance of our two Confiscation Acts of April 30, 1779, were stated. The first was an act to confiscate the estates of certain *notorious* conspirators against the government and liberties of the inhabitants of the State of Massachusetts, and the second was an act for confiscating the estates of certain persons, commonly called absentees.

In the first act, twenty-nine persons were named (of whom Daniel Leonard was one), and the goods and chattels, rights and credits, lands and tenements of every kind, of which each of those twenty-nine persons were seized or possessed, or were entitled to, or of which any person was seized or possessed, or were entitled to, for their use, by

operation and by the force of that act escheated, enured, and accrued to the sole use and benefit of the government and people of this State, and were accordingly declared so to enure and accrue; and the government and people were, and by the mere force of said act, adjudged and taken to be in the real and actual possession of such goods and chattels, rights and credits, lands and tenements, without further inquiry, adjudication, or determination thereafter to be had, and all that was requisite was for the General Court to appoint, as in fact was done, a committee to inventory and sell said estates, and to account for and pay over the proceeds thereof into the Treasury of the State. Under this act Judge Leonard's dwelling-house, now in good repair and now situate next north of the Court House in Taunton, was sold, and the proceeds paid into the State Treasury. The house afterwards became the property of Hon. Seth Padelford, of Taunton, Judge of the Probate Court, of Bristol County; and Daniel Leonard, in 1799 and 1808, on a visit there, was the guest of Judge Padelford in that very house.

By the second act it was enacted that every and all the inhabitants of this State who, since 19th April, 1775, had levied war or conspired to levy war against the government and people of any of the United States, or who had adhered to the King of Great Britain, his fleets or armies, enemies of the United States, or had given them aid or comfort, were declared aliens; and it was also enacted that all the goods and chattels, rights and credits, lands and tenements of every kind of which any of said persons were seized or possessed, or entitled to possess, hold, or enjoy in their own right or any other person for them, were declared and held to escheat, enure, and accrue to the sole use and benefit of the government and people of the State. Under this act, naming no person in particular, it was necessary that some mode of trial should be instituted whereby to determine what estates were forfeited and did escheat, by force of this act; and it was enacted that the Attorney-General should exhibit to the Court of Common Pleas for the county wherein the estate was situate a complaint against any person who had offended in the manner before in this act described, setting forth clearly and plainly the offence that such person was charged with and a full and true description of the estate demanded as forfeited; upon which notice was to be given, and, upon a trial by jury and verdict for the State, judgment of forfeiture was rendered for the State, and the estate was sold by a committee and the proceeds paid into the State Treasury, reserving a right of appeal to the highest court, then called the Superior Court of Judicature. Under this act, and upon due process of law, many estates were sold and titles thereto passed in the State of Massachusetts.

Daniel Leonard returned to visit Taunton, Norton, and Mansfield in 1799 and 1808, on both of which occasions the late Hon. William Baylies, of West Bridgewater (Brown Univ. 1795), saw and conversed with him several times.

The last time that Mr. Baylies saw Judge Leonard, they rode in company from Norton to West Bridgewater, and when they arrived at the turn of the road, about thirty-five rods northerly of the dwelling

house in West Bridgewater, formerly of Oakes Angier, Esq. (Harv. Coll. 1764), they parted, Judge Leonard taking the road leading to Quincy, on his way to visit the elder President Adams, whom he had not seen since 1775.

Neither Judge Leonard nor any of his three daughters returned to live in the United States. His daughter Anna (White) Leonard, a grand-daughter of Hon. Samuel White, of Taunton (Harv. Coll. 1731, and Speaker of our House of Representatives 1764-65 and 1765-66), married a Mr. Smith, of the Island of Antigua. Sarah Leonard, a daughter by his second wife, married Captain Stuart, of the British army, afterward collector of the port of Bermuda; and Dr. Stuart, their son, was a distinguished physician in London, in 1832. The other daughter, Harriet, died while young. His son, Charles Leonard, lived in Massachusetts, and had his grandfather's real estate, and was, about the year 1793 and 1794, a student in Harvard College, but never graduated. The writer well remembers him in 1816, a raving maniac, travelling the country leading his horse. He died about the year 1830, having never been married, and for a considerable number of years having been under the care of the late Hon. Laban Wheaton, of Norton (Harv. Coll. 1774), by arrangement of his father, Judge Leonard; but a story that has been current that this son was born an idiot is entirely erroneous.

The dwelling-house, formerly Daniel Leonard's, in Taunton, now standing near to and next north of the court-house, formerly stood where the dwelling-house of the late Hon. Samuel Crocker now stands, to which spot, about seven rods distant, Mr. Crocker moved the same many years ago, for the purpose of building his house on that site. Nothing is better authenticated than the fact that in the spring of 1775 a multitude rushed up to his house to seize Mr. Leonard one evening (who had before left for Boston), and perceiving a light in the southernmost chamber, where his wife lay sick in her bed, one of the party, thinking that Mr. Leonard was in that chamber, fired a musket-ball into the room, which passed through the upper sash of the southernmost window of the south chamber, and lodged in the partition of the room opposite that window. The identical shutter now hangs on the inside, and several persons now living have seen the bullet-hole in the shutter before it had been obliterated by putty and coats of paint put on at intervals during the period of more than ninety-eight years. In the course of a month or six weeks after, a carriage arrived from Boston to take Mrs. Leonard and her children thither. It was not deemed prudent to ride up to and take them from the front door of the house in full view of Taunton Green, but the driver stopped in the old Bay road, leading from Taunton Green to Boston, about fifteen rods before the Bay road opened upon Taunton Green, to which Bay road Mr. Leonard's garden extended from the back of his house; and the wife and children of Mr. Leonard went by the back door through the garden, as it now is, undisturbed, to the carriage standing in the Bay road, and arrived safely at Boston.

On the approach of old age, Judge Leonard removed from the

Island of Bermuda to London, and was killed by the accidental discharge of a pistol in his own hand, June 27, 1829. He complained to the person in charge of the house where he boarded, that in the night time, as he lay in bed, he was annoyed by a person walking on the roof of the adjoining house, and coming up to and looking in at his window. He thought the fellow dangerous, and accordingly procured a pistol, and loaded it, and laid it beside him during the night. One day, about a month after, as he was in his room, alone, the inmates of the house heard the report of the discharge of his pistol, and going into the room found him on the floor, dying from the wound caused by the bullet, which had entered his vitals, and so near dead as to be utterly unable to explain. It was not doubted that he was attempting to draw the charge, which had long remained in the pistol, and that from his clumsiness, occasioned by old age, he had unintentionally discharged the pistol.

In addition to the article upon Daniel Leonard in Mr. Sabine's sketches of the Loyalists, reference may be made to two articles written by the late Lucius Manlius Sargent, Esq., and published in the Boston "Daily Evening Transcript" of April 15th and 18th, 1851, where the mooted question is discussed whether Daniel Leonard or Jonathan Sewall was the author of the series of articles entitled "Massachusettensis," first published in 1774 and 1775.

Mr. DEANE read two letters, written in Boston during the "Siege," to Gardiner Greene, Esq., then living in Demarara, and one from Halifax in the following year, addressed to the same gentleman. The letters belonged to Mr. Charles Amory, of Boston, who kindly allowed copies to be taken for publication in the Proceedings: —

Boston, May 6, 1775.

DEAR SIR, — You have my thanks for your kind favor by Captain Kissick, and the track of the brigantine which you sent me by him. I assure you it pleased me much.* By the accuracy of your observations, one would hardly suppose the accommodations on board had been bad; for an easy, comfortable situation of the body contributes

* Gardiner Greene had sailed from Salem for Demarara in the preceding year, being then twenty-one years of age. A letter from him addressed to his sister, "Miss Sally Greene, Boston," written principally on board ship, is now before us. He commences it, "In lat. 27° 54', long. 51° 25', 6 Oct. 1774, or about 1420 miles from Boston"; and concludes it on his arrival, "Dec. 6." He resided in Demarara for many years, and laid the foundation of a large fortune. On the 2d June, 1785, he married Miss Ann Reading, of Essequibo, formerly from St. Kitts. She died 25th Oct. 1786. In 1788, he visited Boston, and on the 25th Nov. married Miss Elizabeth Hubbard, daughter of Mr. Daniel Hubbard. They soon departed for their South American home, for we find him "at sea Jan'y the 15, 1789." This second wife died 7th Sept. 1797. On the 3d July, 1800, at St. George's Church in London, Mr. Greene married Miss Elizabeth Clarke Copley, daughter of the celebrated painter, John Singleton Copley, who survived him many years. Mr. Greene now returned to his native city, and continued to reside here till his death 19th Dec. 1832.

much to the brightness of the mind. It gives me much concern that you have been obliged to apply so constantly to business, especially to that uniform and tedious branch of it, — writing. It is not only disagreeable to be kept steadily at that employment, but is frequently prejudicial to health. I am happy to hear that, as yet, yours has escaped unimpaired either by your business or change of climate.

From your last letter to the company, it appears to be uncertain whether this will find you at Demerary. God forbid that you should have left it to come to this unhappy country! In its present situation it must be inferior to any country on earth. You will doubtless receive from other of your friends accounts of what has been doing here; notwithstanding, I will venture fatiguing you with a repetition, rather than risk any chance of your being uninformed.

Affairs were in a pretty peaceful situation till Tuesday, the 18th April, when the grenadier and light infantry companies of the several regiments here embarked at ten or eleven o'clock at night, and were landed at Phipps's farm at Cambridge, from whence they proceeded for Concord, under the command of Lieutenant-Colonel Smith, of the 10th. Their destination was to seize a large magazine of provisions, ammunition, &c., which General Gage had been informed was there. This information, however, proved to be false, for the quantity was trifling. Between eight and nine o'clock of the 19th (in the morning) a brigade, consisting of the 4th, 23d, and 47th regiments, and the marines, under command of Brigadier-General Lieutenant Percy, marched out to support the first party if they should be attacked; for Colonel Smith's orders were by all means to avoid firing unless he should be attacked. About eight o'clock it was confidently reported an engagement had happened between Colonel Smith's party and the country people; but this was for a long time disbelieved by the general and officers, for they did not appear to have any apprehension of an attack. The brigade did not march in consequence of this report: they had received their orders before. As soon as the movement of Colonel Smith was known, expresses were forwarded into the country. Mr. Hancock and Mr. Adams, who were at Concord (where the Congress had been sitting), decamped in the night, and went on toward Philadelphia to sit in the General Congress. At Lexington, an advanced party of light infantry found a body of men (as they are termed here minute-men) in arms. What happened between them is not fully ascertained. Each side is ready to swear the other fired first. I have conversed with several who were there, and believe that the people fired first: however that be, eight Lexington people were killed, and some of the troops wounded. This body having dispersed, the troops proceeded to Concord, where they destroyed some flour, gun-carriages, &c. By this time the country round being universally alarmed, men in arms were pouring in from all quarters, and a skirmishing began. When the troops had finished what they went for, they began to retire homewards; but the country people did not choose they should proceed quietly. From houses and barns, from behind stone walls, hedges, and ditches, they kept firing at

the troops and harassed them much. On their way home, when they met the brigade, their ammunition was almost wholly spent; and had it not been for that support, they would probably have been almost entirely cut off. The whole body then retired regularly to Charlestown, but were harassed in their march by fresh bodies of men. The light infantry and grenadiers, you will observe, had been up all night, and had been fighting all day; the brigade had had a long march through Roxbury, and no refreshment for any of them. Taking the whole together, it was the most fatiguing day's work that I ever heard of. This prevented the troops from having the advantage of flanking parties, for they were so fatigued they could not exert themselves. They reached Charlestown Neck about sunset; I saw the firing there from Beacon Hill very plainly. There were between sixty and seventy of the troops killed and missing, and a larger number wounded: many of their wounds were slight, owing to the people's firing from a very great distance. Lieutenant Hull, of the 43d, and Knight, of the 4th, wounded, are since dead; Hawkshaw, of the 5th, badly wounded, but like to recover; Colonel Barnard and Colonel Smith slightly wounded. A list of the killed and wounded on the other side has been published in a Salem paper, amounting to about forty-one of the former and fifteen of the latter. But this is undoubtedly erroneous; it is very certain that the numbers were greater, but difficult to ascertain them.

The country people call this a victory, and the retreat of the troops precipitate flight. They don't consider that when the king's troops had effected what they went for, they only had to come home again. That this was their intention, and that they did not do it because they were forced into it, appears from this, that they were not prepared either with provision, ammunition, or tents for staying one night, and they had only two field-pieces with them. Whichever side had the advantage in point of numbers lost, it was a most unhappy affair in itself, but much more so in its consequences. The country people, arriving from all parts, made a large body; they surrounded this town almost entirely, distributing their men in Medford, Cambridge, Roxbury, Dorchester, &c. On Friday all communication with the country was stopped. Nobody since can leave the town by land or water without leave of the general or admiral; and no one can come in by land without a pass from General Ward. An agreement was made in a few days by General Gage with the inhabitants of the town that they should deliver up their arms, and then should be suffered to go out. Accordingly the arms have been delivered (mine with the rest), and many of the people have left the town, but it is a slow business. Many difficulties have arisen about it, which have retarded the giving of passes to them. They say the General promised they should carry their *effects*, and therefore want to take their goods, &c. The General, it seems, if he did use that word, meant only *furniture*, and he does not allow merchandise to go out. The passes have been stopped several times, too, on this account. It is said if the Whigs go out, the Tories ought to be suffered to come in, and the

General suspected or was informed they were prevented. Your good old friend and neighbor, T. Chace, is at Roxbury; several passes have been seen here signed by him as Major-Brigade.

You may well suppose, from this situation, we have been in a constant alarm; many have been in expectation that the provincials would attack the town, and have therefore been in great consternation, and the General has been strengthening his fortifications and making new ones. A breastwork is thrown up across the Neck; another by Hewes's works in Pleasant Street; another on Fox Hill, Beacon, and Fort, and Copse Hills; and we are in daily expectation of six or seven thousand troops from England. What will be done when they come, God only knows! The present confusion is like to scatter us over the face of the earth. My mother, Mrs. Townsend, Mr. Hubbard's children, Mr. John Amory's children, &c., are gone to Norwich; N. G. and his family are gone to Passatuxet; your particular connections stand fast in town, likewise D. H. and Wife, and Betsey and Charles. I am going to London with Captain Callahan, and expect to have for fellow-passengers Mr. J. Green and wife, of School Street; Mr. J. Barrell and lady, Mr. John Amory and lady, Mrs. Callahan, Mr. Balch, Mr. S. Quincey, D. Sears, &c. As I have long entertained thoughts of making this voyage, as it will be impossible to do any business here, and as I may find something to do in England, I doubt not you will approve of my intention. If you can find an opportunity, I shall be much obliged to you to write me while there, to inform me how you go on, &c. I doubt not your friends will by this conveyance advise you not to come home; I hope you will not think me wholly governed by interested motives if I heartily join in the advice. You can do nothing in the way of business here; you will be in the midst of the confusion and horrors of a civil war, and be obliged, perhaps, to live as we now do, on salt provisions.

My best wishes attend you. Believe me to be, with esteem, your very affectionate friend,

D. GREENE.

Boston, May 10th, 1775.

DEAR BROTHER, — To you, who are acquainted with my very great averseness to writing, it may seem extraordinary to see a letter of any length; but the extreme affection I have for you will make me break through all obstacles. And what dwells most on my mind you must take first, which you may depend is the badness of the times. When you left us, we thought them quite bad enough; but they would bear no comparison to the present, occasioned by the following accident of Tuesday, the 18th instant. About half-past ten o'clock, the grenadiers and light companies of all the regiments in town, consisting of about eight hundred, were ordered to march for Concord, to destroy the magazine there, which the general was (falsely) informed was very large. They crossed from the bottom of the Common to Phips's Farm, and from thence to Lexington, where they arrived about daybreak,

and found a number of armed men, who the officers, and most of the people left in town, think fired on the king's troops, and wounded two privates; they then returned the fire, and killed eight. The people out of town say the king's troops fired first; but, be that as it may, the fire by that began no one knows where will end. After destroying what stores, &c., they could find at Concord, which consisted of two cannon, some wheels, wooden bowls, spoons, &c., and forty barrels of flour, they began to return, when the provincials appeared from every height, and behind every tree, stone-wall, house, &c. The troops retreated to Charlestown, attended by a constant fire from both sides, in which there were fifty odd of the king's troops killed and about one hundred wounded. The accounts published by the provincials say they had about forty killed and but a few wounded, since which there has been no person suffered to come in or go out of town but by a pass obtained from head-quarters; no provisions allowed by the people to be brought in, which makes it very difficult for those families who remain in town and had not supplied themselves before; but our folks are as well off as most. Mother and Mrs. Townshend, with all Mr. Hubbard's children (except Betsy and the baby), all Mr. Amory's children, and brother Benjamin's son Benjamin, are gone to Norwich. Mr. Amory and wife, and David, and about a dozen more, are going to London in the *Minerva*. We are surrounded by people from far and near; reports concerning their numbers are various, from ten to thirty thousand; but I believe there may be about twelve or fifteen thousand. Many people think they will attack the town, many more think they will only act on the defensive, and in case any troops go out of town to endeavor to cut them off: the last is my opinion. There has upwards of two thousand persons left the town. The town was disarmed soon after the battle. The above account is the most particular I can get. The papers I enclose you were published by authority.* Callahan and our dear Lucretia, &c., sail in about a week. If you should finish your business, and can make any large collections, and find an opportunity to Holland, on easy terms, would it not be a good plan to take a voyage. You certainly cannot make yourself happy here while the disturbances last. Enclosed is Robert Tayler's draft with protests, which I should like to have remitted on the same plan you do the Company's, as likewise what may be due to me for the linens, &c. Enclosed you have likewise a number of bills Nathaniel sold Nathaniel Coffin, Esq., which are returned with disgrace, list of which you have at foot; † pray renew them, and remit them as above on my account wholly, as Nathaniel had some of mine to replace them.

The person who takes this to Salem waits, which obliges me to conclude.

Your loving brother,

JOSEPH GREENE.

* Among these papers was Gage's "Circumstantial Account" of the affair of Lexington and Concord, on the margin of which Joseph Greene has written, — "The people say the troops fired first, and I think they did." — EDS.

† This list of returned bills, amounting to £4039 14s., we do not copy. — EDS.

HALIFAX, August 2d, 1776.

DEAR GARDINER, — I was agreeably surprised the other day with the sight of our friend, Captain Blake, by whom I had the satisfaction to hear of your welfare, as well as to learn a little of what is passing in your part of the world.

It gives me much pleasure to hear you are well and in so good business, though you must be somewhat anxious in regard to what is doing among us here. Indeed, I don't know what to tell you, for every day may bring forth something new where war rages. You undoubtedly inquire how I came here : I will tell you. About the middle of March past, General Howe, with his army, consisting of about seven or eight thousand men, with women and children, inhabitants of Boston, refugees from the country, &c., quitted the town of Boston (the particulars of which I daresay you have already had), and came down to this hole, the dregs of the earth, where they all remained till the 10th of June, when they went away again for action to some part of the continent. I, having been employed by our friend, Gregory Townsend, Esq., in the Commissary-General's department, came here with the fleet too, and when the army went off was left here as Deputy-Commissary.

When we came from Boston, all your friends were well, they all stayed as well [as] our family. By all accounts they fare tolerably well. Almost every one who came from Boston to this place have gone away again : some for England, some for head-quarters, and the remainder will go as soon as they can learn where the army is gone to, and whether they have made their landing good, for this is without exception the most despicable place ever I knew. The price of living here is exceeding high ; and the people, in general, a poor, mean, low-lived set of beings, and, were it not that I have some expectations, wouldn't tarry here a day longer after my accounts are settled. Hope soon to hear from the army, as we are hourly expecting a vessel. Wish sincerely they may make up matters this fall. There are a large body of troops come out from England. A large fleet arrived here a few weeks past with foreign troops, and the Guards, with Lord Howe among them : they went away to join General Howe immediately ; they were Hessians.

From the opinion I have always had of the Howe family, and from the particular good character which General Howe now bears throughout his whole army, I think that the troops now gone from here will never turn their backs while alive : they will either conquer or die. God grant the Americans may consider a little more, if reason has not quite left them, and give ear to the proposals that will be made them by Lord Howe before they go to action ; for most certainly there will be bloody work this season ; and, if I'm not much mistaken, there will be an example made for rebellion in future, notwithstanding there appears much lenity in every step taken on government side, — too much in my opinion. It is certainly a happy thing to live under so mild a government as the present English government ; but I'm sure if more

authority had been made use of a few years past much expense might have been saved ; but I blame no one, for the Devil himself couldn't think to see the present unhappy war increase to so great a height in so short a time.

I sincerely wish to see the day when you and yours as well as myself may all be together again in perfect peace.

Your old friend, Jack Coffin, arrived here a few days past from London, bound to head-quarters ; your uncle Chandler sailed a few days past for London, together with John Powell and his family, our old friend Frank Johonnott, John Erving and family, Mr. Lechmere and family, the Commissioners, &c., &c. ; in short, one half of Boston is now in England, and they tell me that the Bostonians are so thick about the streets of London that it is imagined selectmen, wardens, &c., will be chosen there, according to the old Bostonian method.

If I was sure of staying here any time, would beg you to write to me ; but it is quite uncertain how long I shall stay. Your cousin, Rufus Chandler, is here with his wife ; shall try to see him presently, and acquaint him of this opportunity.

Blake will give you a description of affairs here. I assure you it is agreeable to hear of the vessels in Mr. Hubbard's employ : it seems natural. Blake is a special good fellow, I think, for business. Hope he'll make a good voyage.

I wish you every good this world can afford, and, in full hope of seeing you again after the storm is past over, I am sincerely your friend and very obedient servant,

JOHN PERKINS.

Mr. GARDINER GREENE, Rio Demarara.

Excuse my haste : 'tis just dark now, and Blake goes out early in the morning.

Mr. EDMUND QUINCY presented a volume, — the "Trial of Lord Cochrane and others," 1814 ; also "An Oration on the Death of George Clinton," &c., by Elbert Herring, Esq. (20 May, 1812), now the oldest graduate of Princeton.

Count Adolphe de Circourt, through Mr. Winthrop, presented a copy of his paper, entitled "La Première Coalition," &c.

Mr. SIBLEY spoke of the old graduates of Harvard now living, and said that the second (Horace Binney of the class of 1797 being the oldest) now living was Willard Hall, of Delaware, of the class of 1799 ; and he was followed by Samuel Dunn Parker, of Boston, of the same class.* He then took occasion to say that the next oldest living graduate was our associate, Colonel Aspinwall, of the class of 1804, whose presence

* Mr. Parker has died while this volume was in the press.

at the meeting, notwithstanding his physical infirmities, was gracefully noticed by Mr. Sibley.

In connection with the subject of old age, the Recording Secretary called attention to a copy of the "London Athenæum" of May 31st, which he had received that morning, and which contained a notice of a recent work by W. J. Thoms, F.S.A., on "Human Longevity." By this it appeared that the author contested the claims of a large number of supposed centenarians, including those of Parr, Jenkins, and the Countess of Desmond. In the more modern series he thinks he has shown in some dozen cases cited that the ages were really from six to twenty years younger than claimed. Among these he includes the case of Frederick Larbusch, of New York, who has attracted more than usual interest in that city as a centenarian, born in 1766; and whose name occurs more than once on our records as having been visited by some of our own associates. If Mr. Thoms's account of him is true, the case is a painful one; and the Secretary would only refer those interested to the work on "Human Longevity," noticed in the paper just mentioned.

A conversation ensued, in which Mr. QUINCY, Mr. WATERSTON, Mr. BROOKS, Dr. HOLMES, Prof. WASHBURN, and Mr. T. C. AMORY took part.

Mr. THOMAS C. AMORY mentioned an instance of longevity in England, less familiar and less frequently cited or alluded to in the discussion of the question than those of Parr or the Countess of Desmond. In an inquisition preserved in the Dodsleian Manuscripts, vol. 39, p. 136, Sir Ralph de Vernon is stated to have lived sevenscore years and ten, or to the great age of one hundred and fifty. He married Mary, daughter of Lord Dacre, and their son, Sir Ralph, of Hanwell, married a daughter of St. Pierre. Ralin, the son of the second Sir Ralph, had issue, another Sir Ralph of Mottram, whose son was yet another Sir Ralph "the younger." Old Sir Ralph survived his son, grandson, and great-grandson, and about 1320 entered into an agreement with a judge of Chester for the marriage of Sir Ralph the younger, his great-great-grandson, with Agnes, the judge's daughter. The estates of the family were settled on the old Sir Ralph for his life, and in tail on the younger Sir Ralph, with remainders over in the collateral branches in succession of each preceding generation. After failure of issue in several of the persons to whom the property was limited, this inquisition was held to determine who next should take.

If, as usual at the period, the younger Sir Ralph and Agnes were betrothed in early childhood, and we allow twenty-two

years for each generation, and elder sons married young being assured of their maintenance, old Sir Ralph need not have been more than ninety when he entered into the arrangement for the marriage of his great-great-grandson, and made the settlement.

The Countess of Desmond, according to tradition, was born in the reign of Edward IV., 1461-1483, danced with Richard III. about 1480, and lived into the reign of James II., her death taking place in 1604. She had reached the age of one hundred and forty. This statement is made by Bacon, Raleigh, and later by Sir William Temple, and is curiously borne out by established dates. Gerald, fourth Earl of Desmond, married, 1359, Eleanor Butler, daughter of James, second Earl of Ormond, great-grand-daughter of Edward the First, and disappeared 1398. His son James, seventh Earl, died 1462, and his son, the eighth, born 1425, had his head cut off at Drogheda in 1467. Four of the sons of the eighth were Earls of Desmond; Thomas, twelfth Earl, being husband to this aged lady. He was born in 1454, and died in 1534, at the age of eighty. James the thirteenth, his grandson, succeeded, and was slain in 1540, his widow remarrying with the O'Sullivan More. It would seem probable, therefore, that James's father, Maurice, was born between 1480 and 1490. According to the present received impression, Catherine, the old Countess of Desmond, was daughter, by Ellen Fitzgibbon, of John Gerald Fitzgerald, of Dromanagh, grand-daughter of the seventh Earl of Desmond, and niece of the wife of the seventh Earl of Kildare, whose civil rank was Lord Deputy of Ireland, and Chancellor at different times from 1454 to 1475, and often in England. No other widowed Countess of Desmond answers to the description given of Catherine by Raleigh, "that she had her dower under several Earls of Desmond."

The Desmond pedigree, by Sir William Betham, as given in Sainthill's "Old Countess of Desmond," corrected and enlarged from the four masters, MacFirbis, O'Clery, from the Russell, Coke, Cotton, Harleian manuscripts, by O'Daly, Sir Bernard Burke, Lodge, Lynch, and from the State papers, and published in a broadside dated 1834, describes Catherine as the second wife of Thomas, the twelfth Earl of Desmond. His first Countess was, according to the authorities, Celia, daughter of Cormac Laidir McCarthy, ninth Lord of Muskerry, which Cormac, born 1411 and dying in 1494, built the famous Castle of Blarney about 1450. His said daughter Celia may have well been, as stated in the broadside, mother of Maurice, and have died early enough for Catherine Fitzgerald, born in the

reign of Edward IV., to have become her successor between 1490 and 1500. Catherine had an only daughter of the same name as her own, who was the wife of Philip Barry Oge.

Another instance of longevity was alluded to by Mr. Amory, that of the father of the first President of the Society, Governor Sullivan, who lived to the age of one hundred and five, as stated by his son in the obituary notice of him, as also on his tombstone at Berwick. He enjoyed very perfect health throughout his long life, retaining his faculties to its close. If we may credit genealogists, he was of the same stock by female lines as the Countess of Desmond.

JULY MEETING, 1873.

A stated meeting was held on Thursday, the 10th instant, at eleven o'clock, A.M.; the President in the chair.

The Secretary read the records of the previous meeting.

The Librarian read his list of donors to the Library for the past month.

The President then said:—

We have a number of more than commonly interesting gifts to acknowledge to-day. Here is a number of Addison's *Spectator*, No. CXL., bearing date, Friday, August 10, 1711. It was sent to us by Mr. Thomas Groom, the well-known stationer, who thought it might be of the original impression, as there is every reason to think it is. But, however that may be, we would return him our grateful acknowledgments for the gift.

Here are two large volumes which have been sent to our Library from Mrs. William Winthrop, of Malta, the widow of our late Corresponding Member, who not only added a large number of books to our Library during his lifetime, but provided by his will for the prospective establishment of a Binding Fund of \$3,000.

One of these volumes is the "History of the Recent Discoveries at Cyrene, made during an expedition to the Cyrenaica, in 1860-61, under the auspices of Her Majesty's government, by Captain R. Murdoch Smith, R. E., and Commander E. A. Porcher, R. N." 1 vol. 4to. London, 1864. A presentation copy to W. Winthrop, from E. A. Porcher.